

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1505 – SB 2112

February 2, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Children's Services (DCS) to immediately release certain information, including a child's age, gender, a history of the department's involvement with the child's family and a brief summary of the known circumstances surrounding a child's death, when a child was the subject of an ongoing investigation or where an initial investigation indicates the fatality may have resulted from child abuse or neglect. At the conclusion of DCS's investigation, the department must release a full report indicating whether abuse or neglect are found and if so the report must include any action taken by DCS or the district attorney general. Authorizes the redaction of the report to comply with current confidentiality requirements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- According to DCS, current law requires the department to release the child's age, the child's gender, and if there is previous history with the child. Upon closing the case, the department releases the case classification and whether the case meets the criteria for review by the Child Death Review Team. Records in fatality cases are regularly redacted and released in a de-identifying manner.
- Any increase in expenditures incurred due to the changes in reporting requirements will not be significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/kml

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